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TCS-6884/73
20 March 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Chairman, EXSUBCOM

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC

SUBJECT : Innovations and Trends in Exploitation in the
Western Geographic Division, IEG Caused by
the KH-9 System

1. The advent of the KH-9 system caused some innovations over and above those normally expected when a new system becomes operational. We were prepared, in WGD, for the basic differences and advantages of the KH-9 and anticipated that the system would be of great benefit in satisfying our geographic area search requirements. The KH-9 has proven its value in the search; the innovations caused by the system have been accepted and absorbed; and some trends in exploitation due to the advent of the KH-9 have surfaced.

2. The innovations involved the subjects listed below:

- a. New equipment:
Optics; light tables; film storage shelves
- b. New film handling procedure:
Film separated by geographic areas.
- c. Target readout:

Four bucket time-span (45-70 days) permitted more likelihood of changes occurring at targets during the mission; more targets covered by photography of better interpretability; increased probability of covering targets in normally cloudy regions (E. Europe).

d. Personnel:

Training and familiarity with the KH-9; need for some augmentation to handle increased workload.

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e. Management:

Increased problems of PI motivation to search the large quantity of film; more awareness of interrelated intelligence items due to increased frequency and number of targets covered; need to organize so as to provide both in-depth geographic area knowledge and flexibility of PI strength.

3. Trends in exploitation based upon our KH-9 experience include:

a. More emphasis on the dynamic targets and less on those that have remained relatively static.

b. Increased emphasis on searching for new targets.

c. An increasing need for the PI to know the current situation in a geographic area so that his analyses will more directly address the intelligence problem, he can more accurately assess what he sees, and anticipate and look for new developments.


Deputy Chief
Western Geographic Division, IEG/NPIC

Distribution:

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